Passage 7 (2: 21-22)

21. O people! Adore your Guardian-Lord, who created you and those who came before you, so that you may have the chance to learn righteousness; 22. Who has made the earth your couch, and the heavens your canopy; and sent down rain from the heavens; and by it brought forth fruits for your sustenance; then do not set up rivals to Allah, when you know.

Main Theme

- The main theme of this passage is God and his relation with the created world. This passage outline God's power to create and make arrangements for the sustenance and growth of mankind through all ages.
- Allah is the Supreme Creator, the Cherisher, the Care taker, the Provider and the Sustainer of Mankind. He created what is for the benefit of humankind including fertile earth, shade, and water from sky etc. He has made permanent arrangements and set up systems for Human sustenance on Earth.
- These special arrangements of sustenance and protection for Man on Earth reflects Allah's special relation and His love and care for human beings.
- The passage commands humans to identify their real Lord by serving and worshipping Him.
- It further commands them to reject any form or degree of associating partners with God as he alone is the supreme creator, cherisher and care-taker of all as enunciated repeatedly in the Quran:
  "… there is no god but I; therefore worship and serve Me" (21:25)
  And also: "and your God is one God" (2:163).
- This passage demands from the believers to be pious and grateful to God for what He has created and provided must abstain from the greatest sin of associating partners/rivals with God.

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Importance of Main Theme

- Understanding of the main theme of this passage is too much important for Human beings as it enables them realise Allah's special love, care and mercy for them enables them to develop a strong relation with God by knowing His attributes and following His commands and adoring Him alone.
- The passage conveys the message of inculcating taqwa, piety, fear of God's displeasure and a sense of gratitude to God for His countless bounties.
- The themes of these verses invite people to contemplate about God and nature Muslims should closely observe God's favour and blessing as is frequently mentioned in Quran: "then which of the bounties of your Lord will you deny?" (Surah Al-Rahman).

- Human beings needs to be grateful to Allah for His blessings by sharing them and by taking care of them. Gratefulness to God should also be displayed by their actions and words.
- God provides the world for humankind so humans should be responsible for looking after their environment and not be wasteful.
- The natural world is a source of comfort for humankind, and so they should look after it and must not destroy the environment by carbon emission, pollution, deforestation and causing extinction to the species of animals, birds and other living beings on Earth.
- As vicegerent humans are responsible for the protection of environment and other living beings on Earth.
- Humans should acknowledge who their sustenance has come from and rely on God for everything.
- The best way of remembering God's favour is to obey and worship him by rejecting Shirk.
- Taqwa is the focal point of a Muslim's life and the Quran very clearly instructs in this regard: "O, you who believe! Fear God as he should be feared and die not except in a state of Islam" (3:102, al-Imran). So, Muslims should sincerely worship God and refrain from sins.

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